



## NASA Weekly Update

Week of January 8 - 16, 2007

### Jan 12: Colorado Native Flying on Next Shuttle

**Available for Interviews:** NASA astronaut and Steamboat Springs, Colo., native Steven R. Swanson, a crew member of the Space Shuttle Atlantis' STS-117 mission, is available for interviews by satellite Jan. 17. The STS-117 mission is targeted for launch in March. Interviews and b-roll will air on the NASA Television. Swanson was born in Syracuse, New York and raised in Steamboat Springs. He graduated from Steamboat Springs High School, received a bachelor's from the University of Colorado, a master's from Florida Atlantic University and a doctorate from Texas A&M University. For NASA TV downlink, schedule and streaming video information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>. For more information about STS-117 and its entire crew, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

### Jan 12: Live NASA TV Coverage for Arrival of Next Space Station Cargo Ship:

The crew aboard the International Space Station will receive a new shipment of food, fuel and supplies from a Russian Progress spacecraft due to dock with the station on Friday, Jan. 19. NASA Television will broadcast the arrival live. After launching from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Progress 24 spacecraft is scheduled to dock to the station about 10 p.m. CST, Jan. 19. Live coverage of the docking begins at 9 p.m. The Progress will bring more than two tons of supplies to the Expedition 14 crew. For NASA TV downlink, schedule, and streaming video information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>. For more on the space station crew's activities and sighting opportunities, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.

### Jan 11: NASA Briefing to Preview Jupiter Flyby of Pluto Mission:

NASA will host a news briefing at 1 p.m. EST, Thursday, Jan. 18, to preview the flight of the Pluto-bound New Horizons spacecraft through the Jupiter system. The briefing will take place in the NASA Headquarters auditorium, 300 E St., S.W., Washington. The briefing will air live on NASA

Television and streamed at [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov). New Horizons will use Jupiter's gravity to boost its speed toward the outer solar system, while training its cameras and sensors on the giant planet and its



*Launch of New Horizons atop the Atlas V rocket on January 19, 2006.*

moons during a six-month encounter. For more information about NASA TV, streaming video, downlink and schedule information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

### Jan 10: Panel will Study Mars Global Surveyor Events:

NASA has formed an internal review board to look more in-depth into why NASA's Mars Global Surveyor went silent in November 2006 and recommend any processes or procedures that could increase safety for other spacecraft. Mars Global Surveyor launched in 1996 on a mission designed to study Mars from orbit for two years. It accomplished many important discoveries during nine years in orbit. On Nov. 2, the spacecraft transmitted information that one of its arrays was not pivoting as commanded. Loss of signal from the orbiter began on the following orbit. Mars Global Surveyor has operated longer at Mars than any other spacecraft in history and for more than four times as long as the prime mission originally planned. Information about the mission is available on the Internet at:

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/mgs/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/mgs/index.html).

**Jan 8: NASA Selects Proposals for Future Mars Missions and Studies:** NASA selected for concept study development two proposals for future robotic missions to Mars. These missions would increase understanding of Mars' atmosphere, climate and potential habitability in greater detail than ever before. In addition, NASA also will fund a U.S. scientist to participate in a proposed European Mars mission as well as fund instrument technology studies that could lead to further contributions to future Mars missions.

## Weekly Status Reports



### Atlantis (OV-104)

Mission: STS-117 - 21st International Space Station Flight (13A) - S3/S4 Truss Segment Solar Arrays

Vehicle: Atlantis (OV-104)

Location: Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 1

Launch Date: No earlier than March 16, 2007

Launch Pad: 39A

Crew: Sturckow, Archambault, Reilly, Swanson, Forrester and Olivas Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles

Final vehicle closeouts are under way in preparation for technicians to move Atlantis to the Vehicle Assembly Building on Feb. 7. This week, the payload bay was cleaned and the doors were closed. The doors will be cycled one last time and the payload bay doors will be closed for flight next week. The external tank scheduled to fly with Atlantis, designated ET-124, is in the checkout cell in the Vehicle Assembly Building for final processing prior to being mated to the solid rocket boosters in high bay 1.

### Endeavour (OV-105)

Mission: STS-118 - 22nd International Space Station Flight (13A.1) - S5 Truss Segment

Vehicle: Endeavour (OV-105)

Location: Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 2

Launch Date: No earlier than June 28, 2007 Launch Pad: 39A

Crew: Kelly, Hobaugh, Williams, Morgan, Mastracchio, Caldwell and Anderson Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles

Endeavour remains in Orbiter Processing Facility bay 2, and technicians continue preparing the vehicle for its first launch in just over four years. The vehicle has undergone an extensive modification period, including the addition of all of the return-to-flight safety upgrades added to both Discovery and Atlantis.



After a three-day holiday to celebrate the Russian Orthodox Christmas, astronauts on the International Space Station spent the week packing trash into the Progress 22 cargo craft and unpacking items delivered by Progress 23 as they prepared for the arrival of new supplies.

Packed with discarded items no longer needed on the outpost, Progress

22 will undock from the station's Pirs Docking Compartment next Tuesday at 5:28 p.m. CST. Its engines will be fired three hours later to send it back into the atmosphere, where it will burn up.

The station crew, Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria and Flight Engineers Mikhail Tyurin and Suni Williams, geared up for the docking of ISS Progress 24 at Pirs, which is slated for Friday, Jan. 19 at 9 p.m. CST. Progress 24 will launch on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 8:12 p.m. CST. The new Russian cargo ship will bring about 2.5 tons of food, fuel, oxygen and supplies to the complex, including clothing and spacewalk hardware for the next resident crew that will arrive at the station in April.



- **Jan 18, 2007:** A Russian-built Soyuz rocket is set to launch the automated supply ship Progress 24 to restock the International Space Station in a flight to begin at Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome.
- **Jan 19, 2007:** NASA's first educator astronaut and former Idaho school teacher Barbara Morgan, set to fly in space this summer, will meet with hundreds of students during "Meet an Astronaut Day" at Space Center Houston.
- **Feb 18, 2007:** Launch of THEMIS.
- **NET March 2007:** Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis from Kennedy Space Center.

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